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C O N F I D E N T I A L
SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR/Austria ()

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SUBJECT Soviet Army Supply and Combat
Readiness

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DATE OF INFO

ARMY review completed.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. [] Soviet Army supply points, schedules, and methods
of transportation [] the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. []

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- a. Weapons and ammunition [] for the company were drawn from the artillery supply point (upravleniye artillerii) of the regiment. Companies provided their own transport for ammunition.
- b. Fuel and oil were drawn from a section in the regiment and distributed by a regimental tank truck. [] Fuel was kept in the company area, stored in 225 lit. drums above ground, when the company was detached from the rest of the battalion. Gasoline was also stored on each vehicle in 20 lit. cans [similar in size, design, and color to US cans].
- c. Clothing [] and other equipment were distributed by regimental trucks on laundry turn-in days, when seasonal changes fell due, or whenever some special issue was to be made. Underwear, sheets, and pillowcases were washed by a laundry, operated by the regiment, which employed Austrian labor. All the other items of a soldier's clothing issue were laundered individually in the company bathhouses. Wash tubs were available in the washhouses, and soap was issued for laundry. The soap had a kerosene-base and was made in Moscow.
- d. Rations [] were distributed by the regiment to the battalions and separate companies once a month (two days before the last day of the month) by regimental trucks. The battalions, in turn, distributed the rations on the same day to their subordinate companies. The origin

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originating section is unknown to me. Meat was delivered in open regimental trucks (ZIS-5) every 10 days and was stored in Austrian civilian meat lockers by the companies. Bread was delivered every three days by these same trucks.

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e.

f. Supplies were brought [redacted] by the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. trucks. These trucks were ZIS-5's.

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2. In the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. combat equipment was not stored but was kept in a constant ready status. All the vehicles of the regiment, with the exception of those of companies on border guard duty, were located in the regimental motor park. On alerts, the drivers for the vehicles would assemble and bring their vehicles to the subordinate units for loading. The tanks were always filled prior to parking. Armament was kept in the vicinity of the responsible unit. It was available for rapid utilization at all times. Individual weapons were stored in the hallways of the men's living quarters on special racks. Each man had a special place for his alert gear, plainly marked with his name, which was always maintained in a ready state. [redacted] each regiment had its own ammunition dump [redacted]

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3. The depth of the rear area [redacted] the third line of the front), at the following levels based on estimate of the distance from the furthest point and the closest point of subordinate units to their parent unit:

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- a. Company level rear area depth varied from 3 to 18 km.
- b. Battalion level rear area depth varied from 10 to 50 km.
- c. Regimental level rear area depth varied from 18 to 100 km.

4.

[redacted] all supply for the company was handled by the regiment and the regiment did all the major repairing of equipment such as radios, telephones, and weapons. [redacted] first echelon maintenance on vehicles was performed by the assigned drivers. Second and third echelon maintenance was performed by the regimental transport company [redacted]

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5.

[redacted] Battalion service personnel were subordinate to the battalion commanding officer; regimental service personnel were subordinate to the regimental commanding officer. Enlisted service personnel in the battalions and regiment of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. wore regular infantry shoulder boards. Supply and service officers wore silver shoulder boards.

6.

[redacted] the weakest point in the Soviet supply picture was the poor organization of the supply units and the seeming lack of responsibility on the part of the supply personnel [redacted]

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7. Economy was constantly stressed by the officers and NCO's in the 3rd Bn., 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. [REDACTED] definite limitations were imposed on all items used by the regiment [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] 25X1

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